

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) [[A]] Treated water-absorbing polymer particles consisting of a powdery water-absorbing polymer comprising:

- from about 0.01 to about 20 percent by weight of the polymer of a fine particle with a particle size of less than about 200 μm ;
- from about 0.001 to ~~about 10~~ less than 1 percent by weight of the polymer of a thermoplastic adhesive; and
- from about 60 to about 99.998 percent by weight of the polymer of a water-absorbing polymer particle with a particle size of about 200 μm and above,

wherein

the fine particles are bound to the surface of the water-absorbing polymer particles by the thermoplastic adhesive and the treated water-absorbing polymer particles ~~powdery water-absorbing polymers~~ have either

- a flow value (FFC) comprising from about 1 to about 13 according to the Determination of the FFC Value set forth in the present application, or
- a dust portion comprising at most about 6 according to the Determination of the Dust Portion method set forth in the present application.

2. (Currently Amended) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles ~~powdery water-absorbing polymer~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the flow value (FFC) comprises from about 1 to about 13 and the dust portion comprises at most about 6, respectively based on the total weight of the powdery water-absorbing polymers.

3. (Currently Amended) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles ~~powdery water-absorbing polymer~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic adhesive has a melt temperature according to ISO 11357 of at least about 50 °C.

4. (Currently Amended) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles ~~powdery water-absorbing polymer~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic adhesive has a melt viscosity according to Brookfield (ASTM E 28) with a number 27 spindle at a temperature of about 160°C or less than about 2000 Pas.

5. (Currently Amended) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles ~~powdery water-absorbing polymer~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic adhesive comprises at least about 10 percent by weight of the adhesive of a polycondensate.

6. (Currently Amended) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles ~~powdery water-absorbing polymer~~ according to Claim 5, wherein the polycondensate comprises a polyester.

7. (Currently Amended) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles ~~powdery water-absorbing polymer~~ according to Claim 1, wherein at least about 80 percent by weight of the fine particle comprises an organic fine particle.

8. (Currently Amended) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles ~~powdery water-absorbing polymer~~ according to Claim 1, wherein at least about 80 percent by weight of the fine particle comprises an inorganic fine particle.

9. (Currently Amended) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles ~~powdery water-absorbing polymer~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the water-absorbing polymers include secondary crosslinking in a surface region.

10. (Currently Amended) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles ~~powdery water-absorbing polymer~~ according to Claim 9, wherein the surface crosslinking in the surface region comprises crosslinking effected by at least one organic compound or at least one polyvalent metal cation.

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] Treated water-absorbing polymer particles consisting of a powdery water-absorbing polymer comprising to at least about 30 percent by weight of the polymer of a crosslinked, partially neutralised, polyacrylic acid and with at least one of the following properties:

- P1 a flow value (FFC) comprising from about 1 to about 13; or
- P2 a dust portion comprising at most about 6,
- P3 an attrition index A_i comprising from about 1 to about 17;
- P4 an attrition difference A_d comprising from 0 to about 7; or
- P5 a retention determined according to ERT 441.1-99 comprising at about least 20 g/g.

Claims 12-17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) [[A]] Treated water-absorbing particles consisting of a powdery water-absorbing polymer, obtainable by a process ~~according to Claim 12~~ comprising the steps of:

- providing from about 0.01 to about 20 percent by weight of a fine particle with a particle size of less than about 200 μm ;
- providing from about 0.001 to about 10 percent by weight of a thermoplastic adhesive;
- providing from about 60 to about 99.998 percent by weight of a water-absorbing polymer particle with a particle size of about 200 μm and above; and contacting the fine particle, the thermoplastic adhesive, and the water-absorbing polymer particle with each other at a temperature comprising from about 120 to about 250 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A powdery water-absorbing polymer~~ The treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 18 comprising at least one of the following properties:

- P1 a flow value (FFC) comprising from about 1 to about 13; or
- P2 a dust portion comprising at most about 6,
- P3 an attrition index A_i comprising from about 1 to about 17;
- P4 an attrition difference A_d comprising from 0 to about 7; or
- P5 a retention determined according to ERT 441.1-99 comprising at least about 20 g/g.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A powdery water-absorbing polymer~~ The treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 1, wherein at least about 50 percent by weight of the powdery water-absorbing polymers have a particle size comprising from about 50 to about 2,000 μm .

Claims 21-22 (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A composite comprising the treated water-absorbing polymer particles ~~powdery water-absorbing polymer~~ according to Claim 1.

24. (Currently Amended) A chemical product comprising the treated water-absorbing polymer particles ~~powdery water-absorbing polymer~~ according to Claim 1.

Claim 25 (Canceled)

26. (New) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 1, comprising from about 0.001 to about 0.9 percent by weight of the polymer of a thermoplastic adhesive.

27. (New) The treated water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 1, comprising from about 0.001 to about 0.5 percent by weight of the polymer of a thermoplastic adhesive.